GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:202
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2005
PESTICIDE CONTENTS IN EDIBLE PRODUCTS
Panda Shri Prabodh

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scientific analysis of various edible products like rice, cereals, oil seeds, vegetables and animal feed and fodder has been conducted to know the extent of pesticide content injurious to the health of the consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where the pesticide content in such products have been found to be the highest; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to ensure the pesticide content at a safe level and to check the unsafe farming practices in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 202 DUE FOR REPLY ON 8TH AUGUST, 2005.

(a)&(b): The Registration Committee constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers pesticides only after satisfying itself regarding their efficacy and safety. Toxicity and residue data generated under supervised trials is analysed and used to fix Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and Rules framed thereunder. A statement indicating the extent of pesticide residues in various agricultural commodities monitored under the All India Network Project of ICAR on Pesticide Residues is annexed.

(c): The introduction of new generation of pesticides which have lower persistence in the environment and are required to be used in lower dosages have helped minimize pesticide residues in food commodities. Labels and leaflets accompanying pesticide packets contain instructions regarding the approved uses, dosages, time of application, precautions, pre-harvest interval (waiting period) etc. to ensure safe use of pesticides. The Central/State Governments also impart training to various extension functionaries, dealers, farmers on the safe and judicious use of pesticides. Government is also promoting the strategy of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) which envisages cultural, biological, mechanical and other methods of pest control and only need based judicious use of pesticides. A Central Sector Scheme for Monitoring of Pesticide Residues at the National Level has been approved this year in order to ascertain the prevalence of pesticide residues at farmgate and market yards to enable remedial measures to be undertaken as required.

Annexure

Statement indicating the extent of pesticide residues in various agricultural commodities monitored under the All India Network Project of ICAR on Pesticide Residues.

Vegetables#

Year	No. of samples analysed	Samples above MRL(%)
1999	277	10(3.6)
2000	712	81(11)
2001	796	93(11.7)
2002	592	54(9)
2003	666	35(5.3)
Total (1999-2003)	3043	273(8.97)

Cabbage, cauliflower, brinjal, okra, potato, bean, gourds, tomato, chilli, spinach, carrot, cucumber, cowpea etc.

Fruits##

Year	No. of samples analysed	Samples above MRL(%)
1999	122	8 (6)
2000	378	8 (6)
2001	378	0 (0)
2002	359	3 (0.8)
2003	317	1 (0.3)
Total (1999-2003)	1554	15 (0.97)

Apple, banana, mango, grapes, oranges, pomegranate, guava, chekoo, ber etc.

Milk

Year	No. of samples analysed	Samples above MRL(%)
1999	194	116 (60.0)
2000	537	94 (17.5)
2001	468	71 (15.0)
2002	No study conducted	
2003	No study conducted	
Total (1999-2003)	1199	281 (23.4)